

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-01
/111 W

-----021644 281103Z /17

P R 281030Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5667
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN
DIA
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 2230

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, SO, ET
SUBJ: AIR ATTACKS ON HARGESIA AND BERBERA

1. THE SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY (SONNA) CARRIED A DEFENSE
MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE REPORTING THAT ETHIOPIAN AIRCRAFT ATTACKED
HARGESIA AND BERBERA AT 1405 LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 27. THE
SONNA REPORT SAID FOUR FIGHTER PLANES ATTACKED HARGESIA WHILE
AN ADDITIONAL FOUR ATTACKED BERBERA. THE REPORT ADDED THAT
THREE OF THE ATTACKING AIRCRAFT, WHICH INCLUDED BOTH MIG-21
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AND F-5 FIGHTER PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN, TWO OVER HARGESIA AND
ONE OVER BERBERA.

2. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ETHIOPIANS ACTUALLY
LOST THREE AIRCRAFT IN YESTERDAY'S RAIDS. THE EGYPTIAN
MILITARY ATTACHE WHO SPENT MUCH OF THE DAY AT THE SOMALI
DEFENSE MINISTRY TOLD THE DCM LAST NIGHT THAT EARLIER

SOMALI CLAIMS OF THREE PLANES DESTROYED IN THE DEC 9 ATTACK ON HARGESIA WERE FRAUDULENT. IN THE FORMER ATTACK, HOWEVER, THE ETHIOPIANS DID DESTROY A MAJOR RADAR, DESCRIBED TO US AS A B-37 WHICH WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND IN JANE'S, AND A 37MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN AND THREE MAN CREW AT THE EDGE OF THE HARGESIA AIRPORT. (EMBASSY HAD A SIMILAR REPORT ON THE GUN AND CREW SOURCED TO A SOMALI MILITARY PILOT.) ACCORDING TO THE EGYPTIAN, THE SOMALIS DO NOT KEEP ANY FIRST LINE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ON THE STRIP AT HARGESIA, BUT HAVE DRAWN THEM BACK TO BERBERA. THERE WAS LIMITED CIVILIAN DAMAGE DURING THE DEC 9 ATTACK ON HARGESIA. THE EMBASSY HAS NO DETAILS REGARDING DAMAGES INCURRED IN THE DEC 27 ATTACK, ALTHOUGH SONNA CLAIMS CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED IN EACH TOWN.

3. COMMENT: THE ATTACK ON THE PORT OF BERBERA WAS THE FIRST ANNOUNCED AIR ACTION AGAINST THAT CITY. THE ETHIOPIAN CAPABILITY TO HIT BERBERA MAY EXPLAIN WHY A RECENT EGYPTIAN AIR SUPPLY MISSION (SEPTTEL) UNLOADED AT MOG-ADISCIO INSTEAD OF USING BERBERA OR HARGESIA WHICH ARE MUCH CLOSER TO THE MAIN MILITARY FRONT.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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